

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Administration Building - Room 310

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair James R. Saalfeld.

Present: Commissioners Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Chivis, Bulkowski, Hennessy, Jones, Kallman, Koorndyk, Mast, Morgan, Ponstein, Shroll, Stek, Talen, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld - 19.

Absent: None.

Invocation: Commissioner Chivis introduced Revered Dr. Thurston Willoughby, New Life Church of God and Christ, who gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josh Lunger, Director of Government Affairs, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce – Thanked everyone involved with the proposed 9-1-1 surcharge ballot question. The Chamber Board of Directors has endorsed it, and believes that it will provide fair and equitable dispatch services across the county, and encourages all to support it.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of June 21, Work Session and June 23, 2016, Meeting
- b) June 21 and July 19, 2016 Finance Committee Meetings
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

7-28-16-56 – RELEASE OF EASEMENT – NORTH MONROE PROPERTY / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the County owns a parcel of property located on Monroe Avenue immediately north of I-196; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, the State of Michigan granted to the then-owner of the parcel an easement over the adjacent State-owned property to be used for ingress and egress from a building that was then on the parcel; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation is planning on adding a lane to the I-196 bridge and has requested the County, as the current owner of the parcel, release the easement back to the State; and

WHEREAS, the County is not using the easement; and

WHEREAS, the County has discussed selling the parcel to the City of Grand Rapids as part of the City's plans for the riverfront. The City has no objection to the releasing of the easement; and

WHEREAS, the State will pay all costs associated with the recording of the Release of Easement; and

WHEREAS, the Release of Easement document has been reviewed and approved by Assistant Corporate Counsel; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves to release the ingress and egress granted by the Michigan Department of Transportation and recorded in the Kent County Register of Deeds Office at Liber 1981, Page 438; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair and/or the County Administrator/Controller is authorized to execute the necessary documents.

7-28-16-57 – DISSOLUTION OF THE GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BOARD / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, on June 13, 1956, the County established a Board of Control to oversee the Kent County Airport, and on November 3, 2011, renamed it as the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRFIA) Board; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2015, the Board of Commissioners adopted Articles of Incorporation for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority, and the Authority was officially established by the State of Michigan on September 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2015, the Board of Commissioners appointed Commissioners Roger Morgan, Dick Vander Molen, and Ted Vonk; and citizen members Birgit Klohs, Floyd Wilson, Jr., Steve Heacock and David Slikkers to the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority Board; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2015, the Board of Commissioners approved a Lease and Asset Transfer Agreement, an Assignment and Assumption Agreement, and an Intergovernmental Services Agreement for inclusion in the Authority's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) application to transfer the airport's operating certificate from the County to the Authority with the agreements taking effect upon the FAA's approval of the transfer; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2016, the FAA approved the transfer and delivered the airport's operating certificate to the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority and oversight of the airport is now the responsibility of the GRFIA Authority Board; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Legislative and Human Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approve the dissolution of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Board effective July 28, 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Chivis, seconded by Commissioner Vander Molen, that the Consent Agenda items be approved.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Bulkowski, Chivis, Hennessy, Jones, Kallman, Koorndyk, Mast,
Morgan, Ponstein, Shroll, Stek, Talen, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld – 19.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

7-28-16-58 – MAGISTRATE APPOINTMENT / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, MCL 600.8501 reads, "..... the county board of commissioners shall provide for at least 1 magistrate when recommended by the judges of the district. Additional magistrates may be provided by the Board upon recommendation by the judges of the district and the appointments shall be subject to approval by the county board of commissioners before a person assumes the duties of the office of magistrate"; and

WHEREAS, the 63rd District Court currently uses three magistrates, Kevin McKay, Michael Milroy and Varis Klavins. Varis Klavins retired on June 16, 2016. The 63rd District Court desires for Hilary Arthur, Deputy Court Administrator, to assume Varis' duties as magistrate; and

WHEREAS, the judiciary of the 63rd District Court request and recommend to the Board of Commissioners the appointment of Hilary Arthur as a magistrate replacing Varis Klavins; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Legislative and Human Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby appoint Hilary Arthur as magistrate for 63rd District Court.

Motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, seconded by Commissioner Mast, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

7-28-16-59 – AUTHORIZE BALLOT PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE COUNTY-BASED 911 SURCHARGE BY \$0.70/MONTH / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Kent County is dedicated to providing our residents, and the first responders who protect them, with highly professional, well-coordinated public safety services and an equitable funding structure to ensure fairness throughout local units; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, the County has levied a \$0.45 per month surcharge on all telecommunication devices capable of accessing 911 services with a billable address in the County. The collected user fee is distributed by the Kent County Dispatch Authority (KCDA) to Kent County and City of Grand Rapids' Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) to cover a portion of operating costs, with the KCDA retaining some funds to cover its operations and a portion of capital costs; and

WHEREAS, the KCDA, City of Grand Rapids, local units of government, and the County all have aging equipment and will need to upgrade to an 800 MHz system and other technology enhancements in order to ensure future interoperability and provide the best quality public safety services to our community; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2016, the Sheriff Department will be dispatching for police and fire services for all communities with the exception of the City of Grand Rapids. Historically, there have been differing opinions about what is equitable in terms of funding for fire dispatch. In 2015, the County and the local units for which it provides fire dispatch adopted a short-term, cost-sharing methodology which expires on December 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, through research and discussion, it has been determined that an additional surcharge of \$0.70 would be needed to address technology improvements and establish enough operational revenue to cover the costs associated with the County's fire dispatch services and provide similar funding for the City of Grand Rapids' fire dispatch operations; and

WHEREAS, the additional \$0.70 per device per month surcharge is expected to generate approximately \$4.5 million annually; in calendar year 2017, this amount shall be \$2.25 million; and

WHEREAS, this request was recommended to be placed on the November 2016 General Election Ballot by the Millage Subcommittee (Commissioners Dan Koorndyk, Emily Brieve, Carol Hennessy, Ted Vonk, and Harold Voorhees); and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby determines to submit a ballot question to County voters at the November 8, 2016 election in accordance with Section 6 of Article 9 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Michigan Election Law (Act No. 116 of Public Acts of 1954 as amended, MCL 168.1 et seq.) and the Property Tax Limitation Act (Act No. 62 of the Public Acts of 1933, as amended, MCL211.201 et seq.) and the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act (Act No. 32 of 1986, as amended, MCL 484.1401 et seq.) authorizes the placement of a proposition on the November 8, 2016 General Election Ballot to increase the County-based 911 Surcharge by \$0.70 per month (to \$1.15 per month) per device, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2036; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby certifies to the Kent County Clerk the ballot language on the attached Exhibit A for submission to the Kent County electorate on the November 8, 2016 general Election ballot.

Exhibit A

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SURCHARGE

To the extent permitted by law, shall Kent County be authorized to assess an additional \$0.70 monthly surcharge on communication service suppliers' billings to service users within the geographic boundaries of Kent County for the period beginning July 1, 2017, and continuing through June 30, 2036, to pay debt service on approximately \$25 million in technology upgrades for new towers and equipment (including new equipment for existing police, fire, and public safety agencies) necessary to operate an 800MHz radio system, and to provide dedicated funding to provide an enhanced Public Safety Dispatch System, including annual funding for Fire Dispatch county-wide, to be distributed as provided in the county 9-1-1 service plan? If approved, the additional surcharge would raise an estimated \$4,500,000 per year.

YES []

NO []

Motion by Commissioner Shroll, seconded by Commissioner Kallman, to amend the Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatch ballot language (Exhibit A) to read:

Exhibit A

ENHANCED 9-1-1 PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH

To provide dedicated funding to pay for an enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatch system including (a) technology upgrades (including communication towers and new equipment for dispatch and existing police, fire, and public safety agencies), and (b) annual funding for fire dispatch as provided in the county 9-1-1 service plan, shall Kent County be authorized to assess an additional \$0.70 monthly surcharge on communication service suppliers' billings to service users within Kent County for the period beginning July 1, 2017 and continuing through June 30, 2036? If approved, the additional surcharge would raise an estimated \$4,500,000 per year.

YES []
NO []

Chair Saalfeld explained that the amendment makes the language cleaner and simpler.

Motion to amend Exhibit A – Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatch ballot language passed by voice vote.

Motion by Commissioner Vonk, seconded by Commissioner Vander Molen, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Bulkowski, Chivis, Hennessy, Jones, Kallman, Koorndyk, Mast, Morgan, Shroll, Stek, Talen, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld – 18.

Nays: Ponstein - 1.

7-28-16-60 – PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS – MALONE B PROPERTY / KENT/MSU
EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Ordinance on November 26, 2002. In April 2014, the Board of Commissioners approved selection criteria for the purchase of development rights by the County and authorized the Agricultural Preservation Board to accept applications from landowners to participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2015, the Board of Commissioners authorized an option on and submission of a federal grant application to purchase 100 acres owned by Dennis Malone and Kimberly Malone in Grattan Township. The total acreage proposed for preservation by the Malone's was 157 acres, but funds were not available to preserve the entire farm at that time. The federal grant was awarded and the 100-acre parcel is now ready to close; and

WHEREAS, the Wege Foundation has recently approved using funds previously granted to the County to purchase the remaining 57 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Board is therefore recommending the purchase of development rights on approximately 57 additional acres in Grattan Township owned by Dennis and Kimberly Malone, 4829 Montcalm Avenue, Belding, MI 48809, at a cost not to exceed \$109,000, based on the property's compliance with federal criteria, County criteria, and the availability of matching funds; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel will review and approve closing documents before the date of closing; and

WHEREAS, this item has been reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the purchase of development rights on 57 acres (PPN 41-12-25-200-002) of property in Grattan Township owned by Dennis and Kimberly Malone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator/Controller or his designee is authorized to execute purchase agreements and any associated documents.

Motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Chivis, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Antor, Bolter, Brieve, Bulkowski, Chivis, Hennessy, Jones, Koorndyk, Mast, Morgan, Ponstein, Shroll, Stek, Talen, Vander Molen, Vonk, Voorhees, Chair Saalfeld – 18.

Nays: Kallman - 1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REPORTS

NACo Conference

Commissioner Talen: He and Commissioner Ponstein attended the NACo Summer Conference. Talen attended sessions on the Stepping Up Program related to mental health and other issues transitioning to and out of incarceration. He is appreciative of the opportunity to attend.

Gerald R. Ford International Airport

Commissioner Morgan: The Airport had its first authority meeting yesterday. Grand Hall construction is on schedule, under budget and should be finished May 2017. Also, they are looking at a request to put a statue of Astronaut Roger B. Chaffee at the airport.

Homeless Veterans

Commissioner Antor: The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency are partnering with the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness with a goal to bring attention and support to the issue of eliminating veterans' homelessness. He spoke at their event on July 15 and was appreciative of the opportunity.

MISCELLANEOUS

Byron Days Festival

Commissioner Kallman: Announced that Byron Days Festival starts today and runs through the weekend. He encouraged all to attend one of the oldest festivals in the State.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Commissioner Bulkowski: This past Tuesday, July 26, was the 26th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. On Wednesday, August 3, at the Celebration North Theatre, a movie about autism entitled *Life, Animated* will be shown at 6:30 p.m.

Senior Meals Name Change

Commissioner Mast: Announced that Senior Meals on Wheels is changing its name to Meals on Wheels Western Michigan.

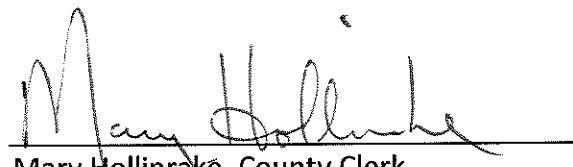
Meadows at Millennium Park

Chair Saalfeld: The ribbon cutting for the Meadows at Millennium Park is scheduled for tonight. Tours will begin at 5:00 p.m., with the dedication at 6:00 p.m. where a proclamation will be presented to the Secchia family.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 a.m., Commissioner Chivis moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, August 25, 2016, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk. Motion carried.


James R. Saalfeld, Chair


Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk